DEVELOPMENT SECRETARIAT.

Working of the Amrit Mahal Department for 1930-31.

READ—

Letter No. Per. 45—A. M. 79—31-32, dated 17th September 1931, from the Director of Agriculture, forwarding the Report on the Working of the Amrit Mahal Department for 1930-31, with his remarks thereon.

ORDER NO. D. 2480-9—L. & A. 7-31-3, DATED 23RD—24TH NOVEMBER 1931.

Recorded.

2. The number of ranges remained the same as in the previous year and orders regarding the abolition of the Tumkur Range were given effect to after the close of the official year. The amalgamation of the Amrit Mahal Department with the Live Stock Section which was under consideration during the year has since been ordered, and takes effect from 1st August 1931. Under this scheme, the future policy of the Amrit Mahal Department has been so shaped as to provide for the eventual transfer to private agencies of the actual breeding operations now undertaken by the Amrit Mahal Department, a gradual reduction of herds and a transfer of the Kaval lands to the Revenue Department for being given out for cultivation. With a view to provide for the supervision and control of breeding under the new conditions and to ensure that all operations in connection with the improvement of Live Stock are carried on satisfactorily, the two Departments have been constituted into one charge and placed under the Live Stock Expert, the appointment having been revived and that of the Amrit Mahal Superintendent being abolished.

3. The seasonal conditions were on the whole satisfactory except in the Kavals of Tumkur and Challakere, where due to late rains, some difficulty was felt for hot weather kavals. The condition of the cattle was good except for the rather widespread outbreak of foot and mouth disease in ten of the herds and Black-quarter which caused the death of twelve animals. The timely action to adopt preventive measures is evidenced by the fall in the number of deaths and lower death-rate, and this is satisfactory.

4. The demand for the year under all sources of revenue was Rs. 42,980-6-7, against Rs. 75,540-7-4, in the previous year, the fall being due to the unfavourable economic conditions. There was a fall in the number of cattle sold and also in the average price realised. There is a heavy balance of Rs. 29,986-6-4, to be collected, of which Rs. 19,107-14-0 is pending with the Revenue Department. This calls for prompt and energetic measures and the attention of the Revenue Department should be drawn to it.

5. During the year under report, an area of 325 acres and 22 guntas was actually surrendered to the Revenue Department. The Director's proposals for the relinquishment of an area of 17,812 acres of kaval lands from Amrit Mahal kavals with a view to meet the persistent demand for the surrender of land for cultivation have since been approved.

6. The Director's proposals for effecting a reduction in the number of herds of cattle with a view to have a really good stock by keeping only the best animals were sanctioned by Government. The Director's scheme for the disposal of the animals under which the animals are to be distributed among Servegars who have special knowledge and experience of cattle breeding, providing them with certain facilities, is under consideration.

7. The working of the Department was satisfactory.

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